



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Baltimore City Detention Center Correctional Officer Stops Contraband Exchange

Suspected Marijuana confiscated, Officer and detainee criminally charged

TOWSON, MD (June 23, 2008)---After witnessing a hand to hand contraband exchange between another officer and a detainee on Saturday June 21, a Baltimore City Detention Center Officer stepped up to the plate to keep the illegal substance out of the facility.

Recently, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services has stepped up its contraband interdiction and security efforts throughout all facilities, including a highly successful pilot program of heightened interdiction strategies at Division of Correction Baltimore locations.

Violence within correctional facilities is often caused or increased by the presence of illegal contraband. In keeping up with constantly changing technologies, smaller cell phones for example, or the newest trends in controlled dangerous substances, part of the department's efforts have been to reemphasize with correctional staff the changing level of search scrutiny for both employees and visitors coming into institutions.

"The employee who witnessed this illegal activity did a great service to the institution by taking immediate steps to secure the contraband as well as advising supervisors of a fellow officer's involvement," stated DPDS Commissioner Howard Ray.

The BCDC employee was charged with possessing marijuana, distributing marijuana, as well as distributing contraband to a person in confinement. The detainee was also charged with possessing marijuana.

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